

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: SPOP UNDP UNFPA

SUBJ: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: BUDGET AND FINANCE

COMMITTEE: UNFPA (ITEM 5)

SUMMARY: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL DISCUSSED FOLLOWING ITEMS JAN 16-17:

(1) COUNTRY AGREEMENT IN KOREA, PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, UPPER VOLTA, AND DEMOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE ASSISTANCE IN ROMANIA AND CELADE; (2) PROPOSAL FOR THREE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL STAFF POSITIONS FOR UNFPA; (3) AD HOC FUNCTIONAL MEETINGS TO BE CALLED BY UNFPA; (4) FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR UNFPA; AND (5) FUND - RAISING METHODS. UNFPA RECEIVED GENTLER TREATMENT AT THIS SESSION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE THAN AT PREVIOUS TWO WHICH IS GOOD OMEN FOR PLENARY AND FUTURE.

2. ONLY COMPREHENSIVE COUNTRY AGREEMENT TO COME BEFORE COMMITTEE WAS ONE FOR KOREA WHICH PASSED WITHOUT FANFARE ALTHOUGH LACK OF INFORMATION ON KOREAN CONTRIBUTION LED TO COMMENT BY BRAZIL AND OTHERS THAT INFORMATION ON RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL. SUBSEQUENT SEMI-ANNUAL SESSIONS

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WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE MORE COUNTRY AGREEMENTS TO CON-

SIDER AS THAT WAVE IS UNFPA'S FUTURE. COUNTRY PROJECT FOR COSTA RICA WIDELY APPLAUDED BECAUSE OF ITS INNOVATIVE CHARACTERISTICS PARTICULARLY THE ACTION BY COSTA RICA OF SELECTING UNFPA AS EXECUTING AGENCY AND USE OF LOCAL INSTRUCTIONS. US PROPOSAL THAT FULL-TIME UNFPA CO-ORDINATOR BE SENT TO SAN JOSE (SEVEN ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN PROJECT AND IT IS UNFPA'S FIRST ATTEMPT AT BEING ITS OWN EXECUTING AGENT) ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. COLOMBIAN PROJECT AT LEVEL OF \$1.0 MILLION FOR FIRST YEAR AND OF \$6 MILLION OVER FOUR YEAR PERIOD FOR MATERNAL AND CHILE HEALTH PROGRAM NOT SO FULLY DISCUSSED, BUT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL IN THE REPORT WHICH THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THIS WEEK AND SEND TO PLENARY. LIKEWISE, THE REPORT RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF \$1 MILLION FOR UPPER VOLTA'S CENSUS OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS AND \$1,166,000 FOR CELADE THIS YEAR. DEMOGRAPHIC TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE IN ROMANIA WILL RECEIVE \$200,000 FOR FIRST YEAR, AND ALTHOUGH UNFPA SPOKESMAN GILLE SAID THERE WAS NO LONG-TERM COMMITMENT INVOLVED, HE SPOKE OF FIVE YEARS. US STATED POSITION THAT ANY PROPOSAL FOR NEW UN-SUPPORTED DEMOGRAPHIC INSITUION SHOULD AWAIT THE REPORT OF THE UN'S COMMITTEE ON POPULATION TRAINING. THERE ARE POLITICAL PRESSURES ON ALL FRONTS WHICH MAKE PRESSING THIS SUBSTANTIVE POINT UNTENABLE.

3. THREE NEW STAFF POSITIONS APPROVED WITHOUT DISSENT FOR UNFPA. A D-2 WILL BE SELECTED TO FILL A NEW POSITION AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS. TWO P-4'S WILL BE HIRED AS TECHNICAL LIAISON OFFICERS. THEY WILL WORK TO IMPROVE UNFPA'S CONTACT AND COORDINATION WITH DONOR AND OTHER INT'L ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN POPULATION.

4. AD HOC FUNCTIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE CALLED BY UNFPA TO ALLOW THEM TO RECEIVE THE BEST TECHNICAL ADVICE AVAILABLE AND TO PROVIDE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND COORDINATIONN AMONG ORGANIZATIONS IN POPULATION FIELD. US REFERRED BACK TO ECOSOC RESOLUTION PLACING RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ON UNFPA AND SAID WE HOPED THESE MEETINGS WOULD PROVIDE THE NEEDED MECHANISM

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FOR COORDINATION. GOVERNING COUNCIL RECEPTIVE TO AD HOC MEETINGS; ALL DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL UNFPA POLICY DECISIONS WERE THE EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN OF THE COUNCIL AND ECOSOC.

5. FINANCIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS WERE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH AND WILL PROBABLY BE PASSED AS DRAFTED AND NEGOTIATED OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS WITH ONE AMENDMENT

REATING TO THE LARGER ISSUE OF OVERHEAD COST WHICH IS STILL UNSETTLED FOR UNDP. FINAL SETTLEMENT MAY AWAIT MANILA MEETING IN JUNE. IN THIS REGARD THERE WAS CRITICISM OF CONTINUED UNFPA FINANCING OF POSITIONS IN SECRETARIATS OF EXECUTING AGENCIES.

6. ON FUND-RAISING METHODS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN HIS OPENING SPEECH TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ON JAN 13 (TRANSMITTED TO DEPT UNDER COVER A-67) PROPOSED WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE WORLD POPULATION CONF TO DETERMINE METHODS. US OBJECTED TO THIS ON GROUND THAT ECOSOC HAD EXPLICITLY ASSIGNED FUND-RAISING TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE PROVIDING AT LEAST SOME TYPE OF GUIDELINES. WE ALSO STATED FLATLY THAT WE DID NOT EXPECT TO DISCUSS FINANCING AT THE WORLD POPULATION CONF NOR DID THAT BODY HAVE COMPETENCE ON MATTERS ASSIGNED TO THE COUNCIL. MOST COUNTRIES TENDED TO FAVOR USING A PLEDGING CONFERENCE APPROACH, BUT WERE WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE WORLD POP CONF TO DECIDE WHEN. INDIAN REP GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO US AND URGED ACTION TO CHANNEL THE MOMENTUM CREATED BY THE WORLD POPULATION YEAR. SALAS AGREED TO COME TO MANILA WITH SOME CONCRETE PLANS ON FUND-RAISING.  
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